(c) what steps are being taken by Government to save this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no financial crisis in regard to the Farakka Super Thermal Project of NTPC. The project is facing temporary constraints such as delays in the completion of the transmission system for evacuation of power and nonpayment of dues by the beneficiary States. The Eastern Regional Electricity Board has been asked to monitor the supply of power from the project to the State Electricity Boards etc. who have also been advised to expedite clearance of the outstanding dues and to open Letters of Credit in favour of the NTPC.

Proposals for increasing PLF

675. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry has proposed for the setting up of a special technical monitoring group for suggesting measures ensuring increase in the plant load factor of the thermal power stations within a time bound framework;

(b) whether the Central Government has since examined the proposal of the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Identified growth Centres in the 'No Industry Districts'

676. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have identified growth centres in the 'No industry districts' and released the subsidy;

(b) if so, the details of the places identified and the financial allocations made to each State during the last one year to make infrastructure development in the 'no industry districts'; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to take to identify more areas in the (No Industry districts)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) 51 growth centres identified by 12 States in 44 No Industry Districts have been approved by the Government for development of infrastructural facilities. During the year 1987-88, a sum of Rs. 2 crores has been released to Bihar and Mizoram Government as Central assistance for development of infrastructural facilities in the following growth centres:—

State	District	Growth Centre	Central Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)
Bihar	Bhojpur	Arrah	50
	Khagaria	Khagaria	50
	Purnia	Purnia	50
Mizoram	Aizawl	Luangmual	50

Recently Government have decided to set up 100 growth centres during the next five years all over the country. The identification of centres will be done in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

Request for Royalty on crude oil by Maharashtra Government

677. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government have requested the Central Government for royalty on Oil and Natural Gas extracted from Bombay High and similar off-shore structures near Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government for payment of royalty on off-shore production of oil and gas to the concerned maritime States. Payment of royalty on production of mineral oil is governed by the provisions of the Oil Fields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 1959 under which royalty on offshore production of oil and gas is payable to the Central Government only.

Natural gas reserves

678. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present quantum of natural gas reserves in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that large reserves have been discovered recently in some parts of the country; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the target of natural gas reserves expected by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period as compared to the Sixth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) As on 1-1-88, the balance recoverable reserves of natural gas in the country is about 579 Billion cubic metres.

(b) The balance recoverable reserves of natural gas as on 1-1-85 was 478.63 billion cubic metres and this has increased to 579 billion cubic metres as on 1-1-88. The increase in reserves is mainly in Gujarat, Western offshore, Assam and Assam-Arakkan fold belt.

(c) The balance recoverable reserves of gas at the end of Sixth Plan plan period was about 478 billion cubic metres. The target for the Seventh Five Year Plan is addition of about 331 billion cubic metres of ags reserves.

Recovery of overcharged amounts from drug companies

679. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the measures announced in December, 1986 the amount overcharged by the drug companies has to be recovered;

(b) if so, the names of the drug companies against which different courts passed judgements for the recovery of overcharged amounts;

(c) whether his Ministry has worked out the overcharged amount of each company;

(d) if so, what is the amount worked out against each;

(e) what is the amount recovered from each company upto the 15th July, 1988 and what is the balance to be recovered alongwith the reasons for non-recovery;

(f) what are the heads under which the amount so collected will be spent and how much amount has so far been spent under each head; and